

SUBCOMMITTEE ON  
TRANSPORTATION, TREASURY,  
HUD, USPS, JUDICIARY AND D.C.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON  
SCIENCE, STATE, JUSTICE,  
COMMERCE AND NASA

ASSISTANT MAJORITY WHIP



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March 16, 2007

The Honorable Alan Mollohan  
Chairman, Subcommittee on Commerce,  
Justice, and Science Appropriations  
H-309, the Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rodney Frelinghuysen  
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Commerce  
Justice, and Science Appropriations  
1016 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Mollohan and Ranking Member Frelinghuysen:

As you begin drafting the FY2008 Commerce, Justice, and Science Appropriations bill, I am asking your support for the following requests that are of critical importance to the nation. I have listed them in order of priority:

1. **Texas Border Sheriffs' Coalition-** \$27.5 million through the Byrne Grant program for overtime, to hire additional deputies and purchase equipment. Additional federal assistance is needed to protect the citizens of these counties and to stop human and drug trafficking.
2. **Harris County Sheriff's Office-** \$3 million for their Integrated In-Car Video Camera Project, acquiring digital in-car video cameras and license plate recognition technology to integrate with existing mobile data computers.

Additionally, I would like to request the following language to be included in the bill:

1. **Outer Planets Mission-** Report language supporting \$25 million to study the costs and scope of the outer planets mission currently being discussed and decided upon at NASA.
2. **Space Interferometry Mission-** Report language supporting at least \$98 million for SIM in the NASA budget as well as support for beginning the development phase of the program.
3. **Mars Exploration Program-** Report language supporting the Mars Exploration Program request of \$625 million and at least one mission at every opportunity.
4. **National Space Biomedical Research Institution-** Report language supporting the contract NSBRI has with NASA.

I have been also advocating for a larger subcommittee allocation, and I am committed to finding the resources to adequately fund the sciences in this bill. I am especially supportive of funding the following programs at the stated levels:

1. **\$18.8 billion for NASA:** \$1.5 billion above the FY2008 budget request to reimburse NASA for the inadequate funding in the FY2007 Continuing Resolution, to reimburse NASA for damage incurred during the 2005 Hurricane season, and to both make NASA whole from the

recovery of the Columbia tragedy in 2003 and to get NASA up to their FY2008 authorization levels. I am committed to providing NASA enough resources for a robust science portfolio to fly the National Academies' Decadal Survey priorities, while closing the length of time when we are grounded from space flight, thus risking our leadership in space exploration and increasing our vulnerability to national security threats.

**2. \$6.43 billion for NSF, and \$598 million for NIST core accounts:** I strongly support funding NSF and the NIST core accounts (the Scientific & Technical Research and Services budget and the Construction of Research Facilities budget) at least at FY2008 budget request levels because the American economy will need to grow exponentially to cover mounting entitlement expenditures, and the investment in basic scientific research at NSF and NIST (and NASA) will spur innovation and technology that can create long-term economic growth.

If you have any questions, please contact Ellie Essalih at 6-9172.

Thank you for your consideration of my requests.

Sincerely,



John Culberson  
Member of Congress

*Thank you  
Mr. Chairman!*